



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON WALTER REED
6900 GEORGIA AVENUE, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, DC 20307-5001**

FEB 18 2010

Garrison BRAC Office

Mr. David Maloney
State Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia Office of Planning
2000 14th St., NW
4th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The Department of the Army (Army) is responsible for implementation of applicable provisions of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (title XXIX of P.L. 101-510; 10 U.S.C. § 2687 note), as amended, and is proceeding with the closure of Walter Reed and consequent disposal of excess and surplus property currently scheduled for completion by the year 2011 in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Report.

The Army has determined that disposal of portions of Walter Reed are an undertaking as defined by 36 CFR Part 800. The closure of the installation may have adverse effects upon historic properties that are on or may be designated as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Given the complexity of the undertaking, some adverse effects are expected and may be unavoidable as they transfer out of federal control.

The Army has determined the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is limited to the physical boundaries of the installation and a two block area surrounding the installation. We seek your concurrence on this finding.

This letter serves as a formal notification to initiate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. Through consultation and public involvement, the Army will seek ways to avoid, reduce, or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties and stipulate these measures, ending in an agreement with consulting parties that when implemented will fulfill the Army's Section 106 responsibilities.

Historic properties/resources are present at Walter Reed and have been previously coordinated with your office. The Army is in the process of completing historic property identification efforts and will consult with your office to seek concurrence on the Army's determinations. Although the APE extends beyond the boundaries of the installation, the Army intends to only survey and assess properties on the installation and rely on outside studies for information concerning resources outside the perimeter, as discussed in the December meeting with your office. We seek your formal concurrence on this identification and assessment approach.

It has come to our attention that the DC Preservation League has prepared and submitted a National Register nomination on Walter Reed. While their early efforts are appreciated, the Army has access to studies and archival materials that could further enhance the nomination. The Army wishes to work with the DC Preservation League in creating the most comprehensive nomination possible for this complex, iconic resource. Therefore, the Army asks that your office delay further efforts on the nomination until the Army can consult and coordinate with the DC Preservation League and your office on the nomination package in the light of the Army's ongoing identification efforts.

Other known historic resources at Walter Reed include a National Historic Landmark (NHL), the collection belonging to the National Museum of Health and Medicine. No building or structure is associated with the NHL; the nomination is limited to the collection of objects, which are not related to a specific place. The collection belongs to a tenant organization of Walter Reed and will be a separate Section 106 coordination with your office. As the curators of the museum will be in charge of the move using the utmost care in the relocation, no adverse effects are anticipated from that undertaking.

A significant portion of the Walter Reed property will not be transferred out of federal control and is not considered a federal undertaking under Section 106, based on previous rulings by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Army will identify and assess the properties prior to transfer to other federal agencies because they are related to the larger installation, but no other Section 106 actions related to these properties shall be undertaken by the Army.

Further effect determinations on historic properties will depend upon the redevelopment of the property, which will be determined by the independent Walter Reed Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) established by Congress. When redevelopment plans are submitted to the Army by the LRA, the Army will determine impacts and coordinate findings with your office.

No known federally recognized Tribes are present within the APE. The Army seeks your concurrence on this finding.

As some adverse effect(s) to historic property(ies) are anticipated from the undertaking, the Army shall invite the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to participate in the consultation in a separate letter. A list of the other parties that the Army intends to invite to consult in the Section 106 process is enclosed for your information. The Army seeks your office's assistance in identifying any other groups that you recommend the Army consider for participation as consulting parties.


The Section 106 process will be integrated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process, primarily in terms of public involvement through public meetings. The Army is currently conducting a study to evaluate whether an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is the most appropriate NEPA document for the undertaking.

The Army will take historic preservation concerns into account in its decision-making in regard to Walter Reed and its closure and looks forward to working with all the consulting parties to consider ways to reduce, avoid, or mitigate any adverse effects as the result of its actions.

Please contact the installation regarding any questions concerning this matter. The installation point of contact is Randy Treiber. His email address is Randal.Treiber@us.army.mil and his phone number is (202)782-7389. All formal coordination with your office and the consulting parties will occur through the installation point of contact. Joseph Scott Murphey, a historical architect with the US Army Corps of Engineers, will be assisting the installation in meeting its Section 106 responsibilities for the closure. His email is joseph.murphey@us.army.mil and phone number is (817) 229-1956.

Sincerely,

Encl



Peter T. McHugh
Colonel, US Army
Garrison Commander

CF:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B
Brightwood Community Association
The Committee of 100 on the Federal City
D.C. Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Walter Reed Local
Redevelopment Authority
D.C. Office of Planning
The D.C. Preservation League
The National Capital Planning Commission
The National Trust for Historic Preservation
Shepherd Park Citizens Association
The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
The Walter Reed Society
Ward 4 Councilmember
The Washington City Administrator

Enclosure

Walter Reed Section 106 Consulting Parties:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Office of the Executive Director, John M. Fowler
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A

7600 Georgia Avenue NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20012

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

Douglass Sloan, Chairman (and ANC 4B09 Commissioner)
6856 Eastern Avenue, NW #316
Washington, DC 20012

Brightwood Community Association

Ed Tombari, Interim President
P.O. Box 55104, Brightwood Station
Washington, DC 20011

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City

1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

District of Columbia Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

Attn: Valerie Santos
Walter Reed Army Medical Center Local Redevelopment Authority
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 317
Washington, DC 20004

District of Columbia Office of Planning

Harriet Tregoning, Director
2000 14th Street NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

The District of Columbia Preservation League

Rebecca Miller, Executive Director
401 F Street NW, Room 324
Washington, DC 20001

The National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th Street NW, North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Enclosure

The National Trust for Historic Preservation

Rob Nieweg, Director & Regional Attorney, Southern Field Office
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Shepherd Park Citizens Association

Cynthia Prather, President
7826 Eastern Avenue, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20012-1332

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

Thomas Luebke, Secretary
401 F Street NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001-2728

The Walter Reed Society

President, Walter Reed Society
Post Office Box 59611
Walter Reed Station
Washington, DC 20012 – 9611

Ward 4 Council Member

Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20004

Washington City Administrator

Neil Albert, Co-Chairman, DCLRA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004-3003